

MINUTES OF THE IHSA NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

August 5, 2015

The IHSA News Media Advisory Committee met in the IHSA Office in Bloomington, Illinois, on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Committee members present were: Aaron Bennett, WCIA-TV in Champaign; Chris Hugo, Withers Broadcasting in Mt. Vernon; Zach Kerker, Channel1450.com in Springfield; Michael O'Brien, Sun-Times in Chicago; Rom Ramos, BooneCountySports.com in Belvidere; Steve Soucie, Daily Journal in Kankakee; and Don Werntz, Big Radio in Freeport. Also in attendance was IHSA Assistant Executive Director Matt Troha.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Girls Volleyball – Super-Sectional Dates

Recommendation: Move the Girls Volleyball Super-Sectional dates from Saturday to the Monday prior to the State Finals.

Rationale: The Saturday of Girls Volleyball Super-Sectionals is also the day of the Cross Country State Finals, Boys Soccer State Finals and second round of the IHSA Football Playoffs. Most media sacrifice covering volleyball as a result of the busy schedule. Girls Volleyball is the only IHSA sport that plays Super-Sectionals on Saturdays and, historically, plays shorter contests than sports like basketball who play weeknight Super-Sectionals. Moving these Super-Sectionals to Monday would put volleyball in line with other sports and put the games, student-athletes and sports in the spotlight.

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ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee welcomed three new members, Michael O'Brien of the Sun-Times (Chicago), Don Werntz of Big Radio (Freeport) and Zach Kerker of Channell1450.com (Springfield).
2. The committee reviewed and discussed the minutes from the 2014 meeting.
3. The committee heard an update on IHSA General Media Credentials, which are scheduled to be mailed during the week of August 10th or 17th.
4. The committee discussed ways of improving ScoreZone participation.
5. The group heard a report from Matt Troha on the Football State Finals at Huskie Stadium in DeKalb. The venue hosted the football state championships for the first time in 2013.
6. The committee heard a recap on the 2014 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award winners.
7. The committee discussed and voted on the 2015 IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award nominees.

8. The committee heard a timeline on IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award procedures for the year.
9. The committee discussed the impact that renovations at the State Farm Center in Champaign will have on the 2016 IHSA Individual Wrestling State Finals.
10. The committee reviewed and discussed the 2013 football state finals, which were the first year the games were held at NIU's Huskie Stadium in DeKalb. The group discussed some media changes that will occur this November based on the first year there.
11. The committee discussed the boys and girls basketball state final time schedules.
12. The committee discussed the boys basketball Super-Sectional date and pros/cons of playing on a Monday versus a Tuesday.
13. The committee discussed the sideline restrictions at state football as it relates to radio sideline reporters.
14. The committee discussed being given a brief time (3-5 minutes) to conduct television interviews on the field following the conclusion of the football state championship games.
15. The committee discussed live streaming apps like Periscope and their impact on streaming efforts, as well as the ability to integrate them into their current coverage.